

Cayuse language

The **Cayuse language** (*Cailloux*, *Willetpoos*) is an extinct unclassified language formerly spoken by the Cayuse Native American tribe in the U.S. state of Oregon. The Cayuse name for themselves was *Liksiyu* (see Aoki 1998).

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Cayuse	
Native to	United States
Region	Oregon
Ethnicity	Cayuse
Extinct	1930s ^[1]
Language family	Unclassified
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xcy
Linguist List	xcy (http://multitree.org/codes/xcy)
Glottolog	cayu1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cayu1241) ^[2]

Classification

Similarities to Molala, the language of people to the south of them in central Oregon, are thought to have been due to contact (Rigsby 1969: 71).^{[3]:71}

Edward Sapir had originally grouped Cayuse with Molala as part of a *Waiilatpuan* branch with the Plateau Penutian languages; the Waiilatpuan group had been originally proposed by Horatio Hale (1846), based on his 1841 field work with the Cayuse people at Waiilatpu Mission. However, Cayuse has little documentation, and that which is documented is inadequately recorded.

Pronouns

Cayuse pronouns listed by Horatio Hale (1846):^[3]

I	iniŋ
you (sg.)	nikí
you (du.)	nkímiš
he	nip
we	námək
you (pl.)	mkímiš
they	nípik

Cayuse pronouns listed by McBean:^[3]

I	in ning
you (sg., pl.)	in kai
he	neepe
we	nung naw naw
they	cap pick

Verbs

Cayuse verb paradigms documented by Henry W. Henshaw:^[3]

'hungry'

I am hungry.	wi-tu-tűnt
I was hungry.	kler-ka-wĩ-tu-tűnt
I will be hungry.	wí-tu-nāk-sűnt
You and I are hungry.	swi-tu-ter-yik
You and I were hungry.	swi-tu-te-lì-kai-ĩk
You and I will be hungry.	nĩng-i-li-pʔl-swi-tu-nak-stunk-a-wak
You are hungry.	tu-swi-tu-tuñg-a
You were hungry.	swi-tu-til-kutla
You will be hungry.	swi-tu-nak-stung-at-la

'thirsty'

I am thirsty.	nĩs-ka-mu-tiñg
I was thirsty.	nĩs-ka-mu-til
I will be thirsty.	nĩs-ka-mu-nāk-skĩn
You are thirsty.	tu-mĩs-ka-mu-tiñg
You were thirsty.	mĩs-ka-mu-til-hă
You will be thirsty.	mĩs-ka-mu-na-stĩnk-la

Vocabulary

In 1910 or 1911, Stephens Savage, a Molala speaker, had told Leo Frachtenberg that the following five words were identical in both Cayuse and Molala (considered by Rigsby (1969) to be loanwords).^[3]

sorrel horse	qasqasi tasiwitkwi
spotted horse	yu • k tasiwitkwi
black horse	múkimuki tasiwitkwi
comb	ta • sps
spoon	łú • pinc

Limited lexical items in Cayuse had also been collected by Bruce Rigsby, Melville Jacobs, Verne Ray, and Theodore Stern. Their Cayuse informants had highly limited knowledge of Cayuse and were more fluent in Sahaptin or Nez Perce.

Hale (1846)

A word list of Cayuse with nearby 200 lexical items was documented by Horatio Hale (1846: 570-629). The word list has been reproduced below.^[4]

Nouns

gloss	Cayuse
man	yúant
woman	pintɬlkaíu; watɬlóa
boy	láutlan
girl	staítɬləŋ; staítlan
infant; child	skúɬɬla
father	pintét; tíɬfa
mother	penín; nínfa
husband	ináiu
wife	inɬlkaío
son	wái
daughter	wái
brother	pnaəkən; pənátan
sister	pənátian; pənwaíəq
Indian; people	-
head	taɬ; táəlɬ
hair	ɬlókəmot
face	léequkɬ
forehead	penátɬliɬ
ear	taɬ
eye	hăkaməɬ
nose	pitɬlóken
mouth	səmqaɬ
tongue	puɬ
teeth	tenif
beard	ɬimkéməɬ
neck	yet
arm	tiélaq
hand	épip
fingers	épip
nails	ɬínjɬ
body	ɬilăməɬ
leg	maúwət
foot	tiɬ
toes	tiyəáu
bone	pápət

heart	-
blood	tiwéäʃ
town; village	-
chief	iatóiaŋ
warrior	lotéwa
friend	enlápoit
house	niʃt
kettle	txlípaniʃ
bow	hífoit
arrow	lalɣ
axe; hatchet	yengókinʃ
knife	ʃekt
canoe; boat	txláap
shoes	täítɣlo
pipe	iptnɣlónʃ
tobacco	hanʃ
sky; heaven	ndjälawaíá, tíŋpap
sun	huéwiʃ
moon	hátɣltóp
star	txlítxliʃ
day	ewéiä
night	ftalp
light	notawásim
darkness	ʃilímtiŋk
morning	tétɣlpəna
evening	wəɣaíá
spring	ʃuatolunjátntiŋ; kiátim
summer	ʃqáätim
autumn	təŋ
winter	wit
wind	húntilɣp
thunder	tiŋtululutéʃin
lightning	ʃniktawíŋtiŋ
rain	tiʃtkitɣlmítiŋ
snow	pói
hail	punjiós

fire	tetʃ
water	iʃkaɪniʃ
ice	tók
earth; land	liŋʃ
sea	yamué-iʃkaɪniʃ
river	luʃmi
lake	fuŋʃ
valley	paniákp
hill; mountain	téit
island	liŋtkaíli
stone	ápit
salt	kamtiʃímpen
iron	qauqauítɬlínik
tree	laúik
wood	hútiʃ
leaf	qaisós
bark	pétimi
grass	tɬleft; qéiʃt
pine	laúikʃ
flesh; meat	pítɬli
dog	náapaŋ
buffalo	-
bear	liméakʃ; nokoláo
wolf	tɬlaíu; tsóilaɣs
deer	aitɬléwa
elk	yútiŋʃ
beaver	pīeká
tortoise	atsík
fly	tqaínʃiʃ; katɬlísaŋ
mosquito	píŋkii
snake	waíimaʃ
bird	tianíyiwa
egg	lópityl
feathers	tiaqaímutɬl
wings	haŋ
duck	əʃimɬl
pigeon	súuku

fish	wiaíɬ
salmon	milóqli
sturgeon	-
name	peɬp
affection	atíŋp; tiɬktaɬewetáuŋko

Adjectives

gloss	Cayuse
white	tɬlaktɬláko
black	ɬkupɬkúpu
red	lakaítlakaítu
blue	yotsyóts
yellow	qəɬqəɬu
green	yotsyóts
great	yaúmua; yiyímu (pl.)
small	etsáŋua
strong	ntáloa; naantáloa
old	kuiátsu
young	itsáŋu
good	suaíu; sasuíu (pl.)
bad	luastu; lalúástu (pl.)
handsome	hapútsu; suaíu
ugly	huástu
alive	wióko
dead	úwaa
cold	ɬúŋa
warm	lokóia

Pronouns

gloss	Cayuse
I	íniŋ
thou	nikí
he	nip
we	námək
ye	mkímiʃ; nkímiʃ (dual)
they	nípik
this	qe, qǎ, ke
that	qá, ká
all	naŋináo
many (much)	yíphea
who	iʃ

Adverbs and others

gloss	Cayuse
near	piáfi
today	páməŋ
yesterday	iétin
tomorrow	tetχlp
yes	i
no	téehu

Numerals

gloss	Cayuse
one	na
two	lépli
three	mátnin
four	pípiŋ
five	táwit
six	nōiná
seven	nóilip
eight	nōimát
nine	tanáuiiai ʃím ʃim
ten	niŋítelp
eleven	nántetɬle
twelve	leplin-ntétɬle
twenty	lépuik
thirty	mátuík
one hundred	niŋítalpuík
one thousand	-

Verbs

gloss	Cayuse
to eat	pitáŋa
to drink	pasqunstáŋa
to run	pqíntuql
to dance	iókseak
to sing	tunʂéaql
to sleep	ʃpíʃiŋql
to speak	úlipkin
to see	miskaléntənt
to love	ktáʃo
to kill	piaíitɬtiŋ
to sit	ifníql; ifníkta
to stand	laútsiŋ
to go	wintúkstaŋa; wintúql (imp.)
to come	wintúkum

References

1. Cayuse (<http://multitree.org/codes/xcy>) at *MultiTree* on [the Linguist List](#)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Cayuse" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/cayu1241>). *Glottolog* 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
 3. Rigsby, Bruce. 1969. The Wailatpuan Problem: More on Cayuse-Molala Relatability. *Northwest Anthropological Research Notes* 3. 68-146.
 4. Hale, Horatio (1846). *Ethnography and Philology* (<https://archive.org/details/Ethnographyphil00Hale>). Philadelphia: C. Sherman.
- Aoki, Haruo. (1998). *A Cayuse Dictionary based on the 1829 records of Samuel Black, the 1888 records of Henry W. Henshaw and others*, Manuscript. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
 - Rigsby, Bruce. (1965). *Linguistic Relations in the Southern Plateau*, PhD dissertation, University of Oregon.

External links

- [Cayuse Indian Language \(Wailatpu\)](http://www.native-languages.org/cayuse.htm) (<http://www.native-languages.org/cayuse.htm>)
 - [OLAC resources in and about the Cayuse language](http://olac.ldc.upenn.edu/language/xcy) (<http://olac.ldc.upenn.edu/language/xcy>)
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